

# ENGLISH (MA)

The MA in English offers broad training in a variety of historical eras and cultural traditions, from the Medieval period to the contemporary moment. There are also opportunities for students interested in the digital humanities, critical theory, and writing pedagogy.

## Related Programs

### Doctoral

- English (PhD) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/english/english-phd/>)

## Curriculum

### Program Requirements

The Master of Arts in English requires 30 semester hours of coursework and a written examination. The program is designed so that a full-time student can complete these requirements in a year and a half of study.

### Required Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 400	Intro to Graduate Study	3
Select Three (3) Courses in Literary Studies Courses (p. 1)		9
At least one course must be in literature before 1800, and one in literature after 1800.		
<i>Select One Course in Critical Theory</i>		3
ENGL 406	History of the English Language	
ENGL 410	Contemporary Literary Criticism	
ENGL 419	Contemporary Issues in Literature and Culture	
ENGL 420	Topics in Critical Theory	
ENGL 422	Postcolonial Theory	
ENGL 423	Marxist Literary Theory	
ENGL 426	Feminist Theory and Criticism	
ENGL 427	Dramatic Theory	
<i>Select One Course in Textual Studies or Digital Humanities</i>		3
ENGL 412	History of the Book to 1800	
ENGL 413	Textual Criticism	
ENGL 415	Media and Culture	
<i>Select Four 400-Level ENGL Elective Courses</i> <sup>1</sup>		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Course descriptions for 400 level English courses can be found here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/english/#coursestext>). For students interested in taking an elective outside of the English Department, please contact the Graduate Program Director.

### Literary Studies Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 428	Postmodernism	3
ENGL 430	Topics in Literature Studies	3
ENGL 433	Seminar in Individual Authors	3
ENGL 436	Women Writers in English	3
ENGL 437	Topics in Drama	3

ENGL 440	Topics in Medieval Literature	3
ENGL 441	Old English Language & Literature	3
ENGL 443	Middle English Literature	3
ENGL 444	Medieval Drama	3
ENGL 447	Chaucer	3
ENGL 450	Topics in Early Modern Literature & Culture	3
ENGL 455	Shakespeare	3
ENGL 456	Early Modern Drama	3
ENGL 457	Seventeenth-Century Literature	3
ENGL 458	Milton	3
ENGL 460	Topics in Restoration & 18th Century Literature	3
ENGL 466	Eighteenth-Century Novel	3
ENGL 470	Topics in Romanticism	3
ENGL 471	Poetry of Romantic Period	3
ENGL 475	Topics in Victorian Literature	3
ENGL 476	Victorian Poetry	3
ENGL 477	Victorian Prose	3
ENGL 478	Victorian Novel	3
ENGL 480	Topics in Modernism	3
ENGL 481	Modern Poetry	3
ENGL 482	Modern Drama	3
ENGL 483	Modern Novel	3
ENGL 484	Literature and Culture of the Jazz Age	3
ENGL 485	Contemporary Literature	3
ENGL 487	Postcolonial Literature	3
ENGL 488	20th Century Literature in English	3
ENGL 489	Magic Realism	3
ENGL 490	Topics in American Literature	3
ENGL 491	Early American Literature	3
ENGL 492	American Romanticism	3
ENGL 493	American Realism	3
ENGL 494	American Literature Since 1914	3
ENGL 495	Latino/a Literature	3
ENGL 496	African American Literature	3

Part-time students must complete all requirements for the degree within four years.

If you are required to take certain undergraduate courses as a condition of admission, they have priority over all other program requirements. Undergraduate courses cannot be applied to the MA.

### MA Qualifying Examination

All students will take a four-hour written examination at the end of their course work. The exam will be prepared and graded by a four-member MA examining committee using a standard set of questions, each testing a particular skill. Faculty teaching graduate seminars in any one year will submit a short list of required readings (literary, critical, and theoretical) from their courses. From that list, the examining committee will form an exam list of major texts to be used by students in answering the exam questions. The short lists will be shared with students prior to the exam, the exam list will not.

The exam will be graded as High Pass, Pass, Low Pass or Fail. The minimum requirements for the MA degree will be a Low Pass on the exam and a B average in all course work. MA students who fail the exam may

retake it once, at the conclusion of the following semester. PhD students who fail the exam may also retake it once, but only to complete the MA degree: they will not be allowed to continue in the program.

The MA exam serves as both a requirement for the master's degree and a qualifying exam for students intending to proceed toward the PhD.

The Committee on Graduate Programs will consider the performance of such students in all facets of the MA program; however, the MA exam is designed as a key indicator of students' ability to continue work toward the PhD.

## **Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations**

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

## **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the MA program students will be able to:

- Write effectively about a broad range of texts in English using effective compositional and rhetorical techniques.
- Assess and intervene in existing scholarly discourses in the field as a literary critic.
- Distinguish and interpret diverse experiences across various social formations (race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, etc.) as registered in literary works.
- Evaluate and apply the principles of a range of critical and textual theories, including those emerging from communities that have been historically underrepresented, in order to produce a sustained analysis of literary works.